THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The provisions of Department of Personnel and Training Office Memorandum No. 2/8/2001-PIC, dated 16.5.2001 are applicable to all direct recruitment posts of the Central Government Ministries/ Departments Organisations including Ministry of Railways, Department of Posts, Department of Telecom, Autonomous bodies—wholly or partly financed by the Government, statutory corporation/bodies, civilians in defence and non-combatised posts in para military Forces. The combatised posts are essentially exempted on grounds of safety and security considerations.

MIG-21 crash in Barmer, Rajasthan

300. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that another MiG-21 fighter aircraft crashed in Barmer district of Rajasthan on 4th June, 2003 killing the pilot;

(b) what was the total strength of MiG fighter aircrafts as on 1st January, 2000 and how many of them have met with accidents since then;

(c) what has been the main cause of these accidents and the areas wherein these accidents have taken place; and

(d) the steps taken to prevent accidents?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total strength of MiG fighter aircraft can not be divulged in the interest of national security.

52 MiG fighter aircraft have met with Category-I accidents since 1st January 2000 upto 17th July 2003.

(c) The details are enclosed as Statement. (See below)

(d) A continuous and multi-faceted effort is always afoot in Indian Air Force to enhance and upgrade flight safety, measures to enhance the quality of training to improve the skill levels, ability to exercise sound judgement and situational awareness of pilots are being pursued.

Constant interaction with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) of concerned countries are also maintained to overcome the technical defects of aircraft.

Statement

The details of type of aircraft, date, cause and place of accidents since 1st January, 2000 are as follows:

SI. No.	Type of aircraft	Date of accident	Cause of accident	Place of accident
1.	MiG-21	06.05.2000	HE	Ambala
2.	MiG-21	23.05.2000	HE	Pathankot
3.	MiG-21	13.07.2000	TD	Baghdogra
4.	MiG-21	05.08.2000	BH	Palam
5.	MiG-21	13.10.2000	HE	Nal
6.	MiG-21	16.10.2000	HE	Tezpur
7.	MiG-21	06.11.2000	BH	Pathankot
8.	MiG-21	18.12.2000	HE	Uttarlai
9.	MiG-21	10.02.2001	HE	Naliya
10.	MiG-21	23.02.2001	TD	Tezpur
11.	MiG-21	27.03.2001	HE	Pathankot.
12.	MiG-21	10.04.2001	HE	Srinagar
13.	MiG-21	06.05.2001	HE	Suratgarh
14.	MiG-21	08.06.2001	TD	Pathankot
15.	MiG-21	28.08.2001	BH	Tezpur
16.	MiG-21	17.09.2001	HE	Suratgarh
17.	MiG-21	26.09.2001	TD	Pathankot
18.	MiG-21	13.12.2001	TD	Uttarlai
19.	MiG-21	04.04.2002	TD	Jodhpur
20.	MiG-21	20.04.2002	HE	Tezpur

SI. No.	Type of aircraft	Date of accident	Cause of accident	Place of accident
21.	MiG-21	26.04.2002	HE	Sirsa
22.	MiG-21	03.05.2002	TD	Adampur
23.	MiG-21	15.07.2002	TD	Bagdogra
24.	MiG-21	09.09.2002	TD	Jodhpur
25.	MiG-21	09.09.2002	TD	Ambala
26.	MiG-21	11.10.2002	TD	Tezpur
27.	MiG-21	21.10.2002	HE	Uttarlai
28.	MiG-21	14.11.2002	HE	Bagdogra
29.	MiG-21	26.12.2002	HE	Srinagar
30.	MiG-21	07.04.2003	Ul	Ambala
31.	MiG-21	04.06.2003	Ul	Uttarlai
32.	MiG-21	14.07.2003	Ul	Srinagar
33.	MiG-23	25.03.2000	HE	Karbutang Range
34.	MiG-23	25.04.2000	TD	Halwara
35.	MiG-23	10.05.2000	HE	Halwara
36.	MiG-23	12.03.2001	HE	Halwara
37.	MiG-23	05.07.2001	TD	Jodhpur
38.	MiG-23	21.08.2001	HE	Pathankot
39.	MiG-23	21.02.2002	TD	Pathankot
40.	MiG-23	25.03.2002	HE	Uttarlai
41.	MiG-23	26.06.2002	TD	Sidwan Khas Range
42.	MiG-23	04.04.2003	Ul	Halwara
43.	MiG-23	07.07.2003	Ul	SK Range
44.	MiG-25	04.01.2002	HE	Adampur

SI. No.	Type of aircraft	Date of accident	Cause of accident	Place of accident
45.	MiG-27	10.01.2000	HE	Pokharan Range
46.	MiG-27	12.06.2000	TD	Kalaikunda
47.	MiG-27	15.11.2000	TD	Hasimara
48.	MiG-27	17.01.2001	TD	Hasimara
49.	MiG-27	07.06.2002	TD	Srinagar
50.	MiG-27	19.12.2002	TD	Kalaikunda
51.	MiG-29	04.07.2001	HE	Adampur
52.	MiG-29	11.04.2002	HE	Belgaum

HE- Human Error TD-
Technical Defect BH- Bird
Hit Ul - Under Investigation.

Upgradation of MIG-27

301. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Air Force (IAF) is re-examining the ongoing upgradation programme of MIG-27 and is planning to change its R-29 engine with a variant of the modern AL-31 engine that powers the Su-30 MKI;

(b) if so; the reasons for this change of engine;

(c) whether MIG-27 is undergoing a mid-life upgradation programme at present; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) There is no change in the upgradation programme of MIG-27 aircraft. No decision for replacement of engine of MIG-27 aircraft with AL-31 engine has been taken.